

December 4, 2022

## Drop a Pebble in the Water

James W. Foley

Drop a pebble in the water: just a splash, and it is gone;  
But there's half-a-hundred ripples circling on and on and on,  
Spreading, spreading from the center, flowing on out to the sea.  
And there is no way of telling where the end is going to be.

Drop a pebble in the water: in a minute you forget,  
But there's little waves a-flowing, and there's ripples circling yet,  
And those little waves a-flowing to a great big wave have grown;  
You've disturbed a mighty river just by dropping in a stone.

Drop an unkind word, or careless: in a minute it is gone;  
But there's half-a-hundred ripples circling on and on and on.  
They keep spreading, spreading, spreading from the center as they go,  
And there is no way to stop them, once you've started them to flow.

Drop an unkind word, or careless: in a minute you forget;  
But there's little waves a-flowing, and there's ripples circling yet,  
And perhaps in some sad heart a mighty wave of tears you've stirred,  
And disturbed a life was happy ere you dropped that unkind word.

Drop a word of cheer and kindness: just a flash and it is gone;  
But there's half-a-hundred ripples circling on and on and on,  
Bearing hope and joy and comfort on each splashing, dashing wave  
Till you wouldn't believe the volume of the one kind word you gave.

Drop a word of cheer and kindness: in a minute you forget;  
But there's gladness still a-swelling, and there's joy acircling yet,  
And you've rolled a wave of comfort whose sweet music can be heard  
Over miles and miles of water just by dropping one kind word.

***“The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil. I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.” (Matthew 12.35-37)***